CHAPTER II

1831—1846

Trial of Obedience—Seminary work—Apostolate of the Press—Death of the Two Founders.

1. Mgr. Stabilini embarked for Rome in 1832, and Mgr. Francis Xavier, O. C. D., was appointed Vicar Ap. of Verapoly. There is nothing under the sun that can count on the approval and good pleasure of all men; the work of God,—and such a one is the institution of a Religious Congregation,—should prove its merit in the furnace of trials. No wonder, therefore, if evil reports reached the ears of the new Vicar Apostolic concerning the Mannanam enterprise. Thereupon, Fr. Porukara was appointed Vicar of the two Latin churches, Kayankulam and Pillathop, of the present Diocese of Quilon, and Fr. Chavara, that of Southern Pallipuram. They had to leave Mannanam, giving up all there which they held most dear, and to assume their new charges which separated them widely from each other. Every one felt the blow very keenly. With the advice of Fr. Palakal, they accepted the trial as coming from the hands of God Almighty, and entrusting the care of the future to Divine Providence, they obeyed the order of the Vicar Apostolic without a word of complaint.

2. Mgr. Francis Xavier was highly pleased with the saintly behaviour of the two Fathers and relieved them of their parochial charge in 1833, when, both of them, under the auspices of the Vicar Apostolic himself, resumed the work at Mannanam, assisted by the clergy and laity as before.

3. At the express desire of Fr. Palakal, a Seminary for the education of the Secular Clergy was attached to the newly-built Monastery at Mannanam. The seminarians were lodged apart from

those who desired to embrace the Religious life. Father Palakal was Rector 'ex-officio' of this Seminary as well. Continuing to



His Ex. Mgr. L. M. Zaleski, Delegate Apostolic, who visited all the Monasteries of the Congregation, at Mannanam, when the Very Rev. Fr. Basil of St. Teresa was the Prior General.

reside with his seminarians at Pallipuram, he conducted at the same time the Seminary at Mannanam, through the Fathers there.

4. The death of the saintly Fr. Palakal, which took place at Pallipuram in 1841, was really a heavy blow to Fr. Porukara and Fr. Chavara. Trusting in God they continued the building of the church and the monastery by means of collections raised from all the different parts of the country. The work at Mannanam roused general interest and was looked upon as a common cause by all. It is worth mentioning that the leading secular priests of the day paid frequent visits to Mannanam. Some of them even looked after the works there, in the absence of Fr. Porukara and Fr. Chavara. While engaged in the building works at Mannanam, Fr. Porukara often went to distant parishes to preach missions and to attend to the spiritual needs of the Faithful. His saintly life, his winning

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